

## **Erie County Ethics Board**

June Board Minutes

June 5, 2017 8 a.m. 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Rath Building

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### **MEMBERS:**

Steven Schwartz, Chair  
Rebecca Town, Secretary  
Chris Trapp, Vice-Chair  
Warren Galloway  
Leslie Ortiz-Fogg, Ex-Officio

### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Miles Gresham

### **STAFF:**

Vianne Uthman, Administrative Staff

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Ross Kostecky & George McNerney, Legislature Office (recording)

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1. Meeting call to order at 8:06 a.m.
2. Review and approval of May, 2017 Meeting Minutes\* (Trapp motion/Galloway second):
3. Website Updates / Email Updates (Uthman /Town /Schwartz):
  - i. Request for opinions/actions:
    - i. Attempts have been made to post recordings of Board meeting recordings on the legislative website. A link to the website with recordings will be included in the minutes.
    - ii. Requests for appeal, clarification or guidance by individuals completing Disclosure Forms have been responded to.
    - iii. The board's response to complaints about Sheriff Howard went out after the May meeting.
  - ii. FOIL Requests:
    - i. Dan Ward has requested the financial disclosures for the County Executive, acting Clerk, Comptroller, Sherriff, and Legislators. We will respond after the copying fee is received and review work completed. The Amherst Democratic Committee request to waive fees was denied.
  - iii. Other communications: Anonymous letter ("True Fedup"). No response.
4. Old Business:
  - i. Morton vs. County of Erie, et al: No update on Federal suit regarding fine imposed for violation of financial disclosure laws.
  - ii. Chairman Mills had been invited to share more information regarding his complaint against the County Executive but cancelled his appearance due to schedule conflict.
  - iii. Return of 2016 Financial Disclosure Forms. There are still 11 pending disclosures (one in appeal and one request for an extension). Follow up calls and emails have gone out including a call to their supervisors. Formal delinquency letter assessing a \$1000 fine will be sent by regular and certified mail. The fine will be waived if disclosures are returned by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Moved by Schwartz, seconded Trapp
  - iv. Limitations on Board members: No one appointed to the Board should have a formal role in any political party. See Trapp for clarifications.
  - v. 2016 Annual Report to the Legislature & County Executive is now on the website.
5. New Business:
  - i. Legislation filed on 3/21/17 to revise County Code of Ethics will be discussed when there are hearings.
  - ii. Review of 2016 Disclosures
  - iii. Monday June 12<sup>th</sup> will be a working session to finish review of the financial disclosures.
6. Motion to adjourn Galloway, Seconded Trapp.
7. Next meeting scheduled for Monday July 10 2017 at 8 a.m.